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LOST MINES.

Almost every mining region on the Pacific Coast has its "lost mines" legends. In Nevada, California, Arizona, Colorado, Montana, Idaho—everywhere—we find stories of lost mines. The lost mines, whether of gold or silver, are always represented as being immensely rich. Down in Arizona and New Mexico the lost mines are usually those of silver, while in California and elsewhere they are principally mines of gold. The stories connected with many of the lost mines, as the Breyfogle, Gun-sight, Peg-Leg and Lost Cabin, are too well-known to be repeated here. First and last much money has been expended in searching for one and another of these lost mines. Many expeditions have been fitted out, and often great hardships have been endured. In not a few instances lives have been lost in these searches.

These mines that have never been found are, of course, more numerous than those that have been lost. In California, in almost every mining town and camp, the old settlers tell of places where streams, gulches and ravines were wonderfully rich in placer gold up to a certain point, when the "pay" suddenly ceased. Somewhere in the immediate vicinity doubtless lies the old river channel whence came the gold found below, but no man has ever been able to hit upon it and it lies there to this day awaiting accidental discovery. It is one of the mines that have never been found.

Sometimes, on a flat or say on the side of a hill or mountain, the placer miner has unexpectedly found great quantities of float quartz rich in gold. In vain he searches for the vein whence came the quartz—it remains one of the mines that have never been found.

In all parts of California there are to-day scores of old miners who can tell of such places—and not only tell of them but also point them out. Few of the old-time miners have anything of the dog-in-the-manger disposition; where they have themselves tried and failed they are quite willing to see others try, and were they to succeed the miner of the old days would heartily rejoice that he had lived to see the problem solved.

In some instances not only fragments of gold quartz are found, but also great blocks and boulders of quartz filled with gold.

For a time diligent search is made for the fountain head whence flowed the gold stream; but one after another the prospectors become discouraged. At last it is set down, not as a lost mine, but as one of the mines that have never been found.

In California it is not an easy matter to find a mine traces of which have been discovered in the "float," as in many places the bedrock is covered by several feet of surface soil. Thus are hundreds of rich veins buried to be accidentally discovered in the days to come; probably not a few a hundred years hence.

A man going from town to town in California, and in each place interviewing the old settlers in regard to the "lost mines" and "the mines that have never been found" would accumulate material for a large, interesting and useful volume. Such a book would contain many wild and thrilling adventures and romantic and tragic stories. It would also contain much that would be a guide to the prospector and an incentive to prospecting. Such a guide book to the mines, if honestly and carefully written up, would doubtless be the means of resurrecting

more than one now deserted camp in California. In that State there is no doubt to day more gold lying hidden in mines that have never been found than yet remains in all those that are known and worked.

In the western edge of the Great Basin region, are gold mines that have never yet been found by the whites. One of these is known to a sub-tribe of the Piutes living near Mono lake. Two or three times each summer these Indians bring from somewhere in the mountains considerable quantities of a kind of a red cement that is all alive and glittering with gold. This auriferous material is worked by the squaws who pound it up, grind it on flat stones and wash it in one of the streams tributary to Mono lake. For many years the whites have tried in vain to discover where the Indians obtain this rich cement. All bribes offered by the whites are scorned by the reds, and it is said that however drunk an Indian may be he instantly becomes sober when the subject of the secret mine is broached. Miners have "camped on the trail" of the Indians for a whole summer without being able to trace them to their mines, yet presently a number of them were to be seen as usual at their washing places with ponies and squaws packed with the precious cement.

In the early days a white man—a German—appeared in the town of Aurora with a quantity of the same cement and by showing it about the place created a great excitement. That night the man disappeared and was never again seen. At first it was thought he had slipped away to his mine, but as time passed without his reappearance it was concluded that he had been murdered, as besides his samples he had two or three hundred dollars in dust, and the town was then full of desperate characters who would kill a man for half that amount. The town of Aurora is near Mono lake and many are now of the opinion the mine found by the German was that known to the Indians and that they caught him at work and killed him.

This cement mine has been more sought for than any other of which stories are told and prospectors at Lundy, Bodie, Aurora and thereabout are still looking for it whenever they are out in the mountains.

The early settlers at Steamboat Springs, about ten miles west of the Comstock, say that some years before the discovery of silver, three Mexicans worked for two summers in a gold mine somewhere in the hills in that vicinity. The men had several pack animals on which they brought to Steamboat creek the dirt they washed. The Mexicans were never seen except when they were engaged in washing out their gold and no one knew where they obtained the material they brought to the creek, which was described as a kind of fine red dirt.

In 1860-61 there was some search by prospectors for the "mines of the Spaniards," which was supposed to be a placer, but nothing of the kind being found the stories of the cat-tie ranches were set down as being mere flights of the imagination. Within the last three years, however, a belt of gold-bearing quartz veins has been discovered in the waterless hills between Mount Davidson and Steamboat Springs, and in these veins the gold is found in pockets of a red decomposed material. Some small pockets contain thousands of dollars, therefore it is probable that the ranchmen told the truth about the Mexicans. A number of Mexicans were on Gold canon at the time and it is not unlikely that two or three of them

scouting over to the west side of the ridge found a rich pocket, which they worked out in the two summers during which they were seen about Steamboat. The ranchers thought little about the operations of the Mexicans until after the discovery of silver in the Comstock.

The great region, however, of lost mines as well as of mines that have never been found, is that of Arizona, New Mexico, and indeed all the way down through Central and South America. It is also a region of lost treasures in the shape of hidden hoards of gold—indeed, down that way there are even lost cities and towns. John I. Gian, an old newspaper man of the Comstock, spent much time in search of the lost mining town of Guaynopa, supposed to lie somewhere in the Sierra Madre mountains, but he never was able to penetrate to where the old town was said to be situated. Hundreds of men have lost their lives while trying to find it.

About three years ago this city was said to have been found by Louis Proto, a French-American miner and prospector. Proto says the old ruins are in the Sierra Madre, in the very heart of the Apache country. He went out alone and prowled through the mountains Indian fashion till he found the remains of the old town. He found the ruins of buildings, furnaces, arastras and a stone church through the floor of which large trees were growing. The whole of the people of Guaynopa were massacred by the Apaches over 200 years ago, and finally even knowledge of its site was lost. Proto returned to La Trinidad, Sonora, the place whence he set out, with his pack mule loaded with the richest ores of gold and silver ever seen in that place. These ores were considered good evidence that he told the truth about his discovery. Proto not only saw plenty of rich silver ore in the old tunnel about the ruin, but also rich gold quartz and placer diggings. He stated that the ruins indicated a town of about 1500 inhabitants.

Two years ago a party of Sonorians, headed by one Pedro Encinas, came up into Arizona in search of a silver mine described as a "mountain of silver ore." The mine had been found before by a "compadre" whose age and bodily infirmity prevented his returning to look for the treasure which he thought might now be taken possession of under the protection of the U. S. troops. The party of searchers were provided with letters from the governor of Sonora and other Mexican officials. These documents they presented to Capt. J. L. Bullis, acting Indian agent at San Carlos, and were granted permission to search for the silver mountain, but with the proviso that should it be found to be on the reservation the exploration was to end at once.

DAN DE QUILLE.

West Bros., formerly of Michigan, lately from Telluride, Colo., left here at noon to-day for the lower Pecos valley, going via Las Vegas. These are the parties who are traveling through New Mexico trapping and buying wild animals for exhibition at Chicago next year. Their collection at present numbers twenty-five animals, which include an unusually large coyote, trapped in Canon Largo, San Juan county, a big bob-tailed wild cat, four porcupines, as tame as house kittens, three wood-chucks, two varieties of mountain rats, squirrels, prairie dogs, etc. Up at Ridgeway, Colo., they have contracted a mountain lion which weighs 400 pounds and which will be shipped through to them when they reach Chicago.—Santa Fe New Mexican.

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BUSINESS ENTERPRISES.

Santa Fe New Mexican.

New corporations have been filed with the territorial secretary as follows:

High Land Irrigation Company.—Incorporators, J. H. Nations, W. A. Irvin, O. C. Irvin, of El Paso, S. B. Newcomb, of Las Cruces, and Chas. F. Hilton, of Lincoln county. Principal place of business, Las Cruces. Organized to build reservoirs and lay pipe lines in the Sacramento valley and elsewhere in Dona Ana and Lincoln counties.

The Rio Hondo Gold Placer Mining Company.—Incorporators, R. E. Briggs, A. S. Greig, A. J. King, B. C. Leavitt, Wm. C. Miller, of Denver. Principal office, in Denver. Organized to develop mineral claims on the Rio Hondo, Taos county. Jay G. Kelley is the authorized agent at Taos.

R. G. McDonald Company.—Incorporators, Anna M. McDonald, E. E. Raywood, T. J. Raywood, Las Vegas. Capital stock, \$5,000. Organized to engage in the mercantile business at Las Vegas.

The Granite Signal Mining Company.—Incorporators, Chas. F. Small, Geo. S. Small, Jr., Walter B. Hotchkiss, of New York. Capital stock, \$750,000. Principal place of business, Kingston, with A. W. Harris as resident director.

The Jicarilla Milling & Mining Company.—Incorporators, John Shank, D. C. Winters, M. A. Otero, L. Emmett, E. G. Murphy, of Las Vegas. Capital stock, \$10,000. Organized to develop mines near White Oaks, Lincoln county.

The Midland Pastoral Company.—Incorporators, Henry Wigham, W. D. Foulke, S. W. Dorsey, C. C. Dorsey, of Colfax county. Capital stock, \$1,000,000. Principal office at Raton. Organized to deal in real estate and live stock. The Last Chance Consolidated Mining Company.—Incorporators, M. L. Hayward, Robt. Lorton, W. L. Wilson, O. A. Kemmel, and Robt. Payne, of Nebraska City, Neb., and W. H. Lyford, of Chicago. Capital stock, \$1,250,000. Principal office at Mogollon, Socorro county, M. C. Logan, resident agent.

Sierra Placer Mining Company.—Incorporators, W. M. Weaver, of Albuquerque; B. F. Karrick, C. K. Allen, G. H. Hobson, of Pueblo, Colo. Capital stock, \$1,000,000. Principal place of business, Hillsboro.

Rip Van Winkle Gold Mining Company.—Incorporators, G. W. Prichard, A. H. Whitmore, of Las Vegas; L. Spiegelberg, of Santa Fe. Capital stock, \$1,000,000. Organized to develop mines near White Oaks.

Zapotal Cotton & Colonization Company.—Incorporators, E. J. Garley, D. R. Gurley, H. W. Brown, J. D. McKay, of Waco, Texas; E. M. Taylor and W. F. Lewis, of Albuquerque. Capital stock, \$300,000. Principal place of business, Albuquerque.

Territorial Auditor Peres and ex-Auditor T. Alarid have returned from Silver City, where they were summoned to appear as witnesses in the suits brought to recover a large sum of money alleged to be due Grant county by E. H. Whitehill, a former sheriff. The case did not come to trial, and probably will not be heard at the present term of court. An earnest effort is being made by Whitehill's attorneys to secure a change of venue.—Santa Fe New Mexican.

Sheriff S. W. Sanders, of Sierra county, is once more among us. This time he is accompanied by Mrs. Sanders and is strictly on his good behavior. He confines himself exclusively to Cleveland cigars.—Santa Fe Sun.

Hon. T. B. Catron was at Socorro taking testimony before W. S. Williams, master, in a mining case of very general importance as the question involved is one that has long been a mooted one in New Mexico. It is the case of Elberlee vs. Carmichael, involving properties in the Mogollon mining district worth, perhaps, \$250,000. Elberlee located three claims adjoining one another along the Queen lode and did what he claims to be the legal amount of assessment work for holding all three claims by running a tunnel through one of them on the main ore body. Carmichael jumped the two claims upon which no work had been done, alleging that Elberlee's contention was not good in law and that he could not expect to hold the two claims on account of development work done on the third one in the group.

James Pearson, late artist for the Colorado Sun, and who gained an enviable reputation in that position during the late political campaign, has gone to Lordsburg, New Mexico, to assume management of a big mining property there. Jim is an old-time miner of Leadville and Aspen, and is no novice in the new position he is to assume.—Denver Industry.

James Harris was pardoned out of the penitentiary to-day by Acting Governor Alexander. Granting him his well earned good time allowance, Harris' fifteen years service expires on the 11th of this month. He was in for cattle stealing in San Miguel county and most of his time was put in at the Leavenworth, Kas., penitentiary, before New Mexico had a penitentiary of its own. For some time past Harris has been sick and is in very bad shape both physically and mentally. The dictates of humanity demanded his pardon. He was pardoned on the recommendation of the superintendent and physician. His sister arrived here last night from her ranch in San Miguel, San Miguel county, and will take Harris home with her.—Santa Fe New Mexican.